

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A key cover for covering a head of a key, where the head has an opening for receiving a key ring therethrough, said key cover comprising:

a first sidewall defining a ~~first sidewall~~ plane and terminating in a first edge, the first sidewall having a first aperture therethrough;

~~a second sidewall terminating in a second edge, the second sidewall having a second aperture therethrough such that the key cover is adapted to receive a key having an opening between the first sidewall and the second sidewall and the opening of the key is in alignment with the first aperture and the second aperture; and~~

~~an outer wall extending between the first and second sidewalls to define a recess that receives the head of the key therein so that the opening in the head is aligned with the first aperture and the second aperture, the outer wall having ends that are spaced apart from the first and second edges of the first and second sidewalls, respectively; and~~

a tactile feature ~~integrally formed on the plane on at least one of the first sidewall and the first edge.~~

2. (Original) The key cover of claim 1 wherein the tactile feature is a geometric shape on the first sidewall.

3. (Original) The key cover of claim 2 wherein the geometric shape is selected from the group consisting of: a circle, a triangle, a square, a parallelogram, a star, a cross, a house icon, an animal icon, a vehicle icon, and a human icon.

4. (Original) The key cover of claim 2 wherein geometric shape is raised above the plane of the first sidewall.

5. (Original) The key cover of claim 2 wherein the geometric shape is depressed relative to the plane of the first sidewall.

6. (Currently Amended) The key cover of claim 1 wherein the tactile feature is a raised treatment along the first edge protruding outwardly from plane of the first sidewall.

7. (Currently Amended) The key cover of claim 6 wherein the edge treatment is selected from of the group consisting of: a repeating row of three-dimensional geometric shapes, a barbell, and a braid.

8. (Currently Amended) The key cover of claim 1 further comprising a second tactile feature integral with a portion of said key cover form selected from the group consisting of: the second sidewall and the second edge.

9. (Currently Amended) The key cover of claim 8 [[7]] wherein the tactile feature and the second tactile feature are identical and in opposition.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) A key ring comprising:

a first key having a first opening therethrough, said first key encompassed by a key cover according to claim 1;

a second key having a second opening therethrough, said second key encompassed by a second key cover according to claim 1 wherein the second key cover has a different tactile feature relative to said first key cover; and

a securement simultaneously engaging the first key opening, the first key cover, the second key opening and the second key cover.

12. (Currently Amended) A key cover of claim 1 obtainable by a process comprising the steps of:

casting molten metal into a mold having a void complementary complimentary to said key cover of claim 1;

allowing said molten metal sufficient time to solidify into a key cover casting; and
polishing said casting.

13. (Original) A key cover of claim 12 wherein the molten metal is selected from the group consisting of a pure or alloyed form of: aluminum, iron, brass, silver, tin, and zinc.

14. (Original) The key cover of claim 12 produced by a process further comprising the step of: having a textural surface treatment to said key cover.

15. (Original) The key cover of claim 14 wherein the textural treatment is selected from the group consisting of: paint, resin, enamel and an inlay.

16. (Original) A key cover of claim 1 obtainable by a process comprising the steps of:

injection molding thermoplastic into a mold having a void complimentary to said key cover of claim 1;

allowing said thermoplastic sufficient time to solidify into a key cover casting; and
polishing said casting.

17. (Currently Amended) A key cover of claim 16 wherein the thermoplastic is selected from the group consisting of olefins; polyurethanes; polyesters; polyolefins ~~such as~~ polyethylene; aliphatic polyamide; polycarbonate; polyacrylonitrile; polycarbonate; polyvinyl chloride; and polystyrene.

18. (Original) The key cover of claim 16 produced by a process further comprising the step of: having a textural surface treatment to said key cover.

19. (Currently Amended) The key cover of claim 18 ~~16~~ wherein the textural treatment is selected from the group consisting of: paint, resin, enamel and an inlay.

20. (New) A key cover comprising:

a first sidewall defining a plane and terminating in a first edge, the first sidewall having a first aperture therethrough;

a second sidewall terminating in a second edge, the second sidewall having a second aperture therethrough such that the key cover is adapted to receive a key having an opening between the first sidewall and the second sidewall and the opening of the key is in alignment with the first aperture and the second aperture; and

a first tactile feature integrally formed on the plane of the first sidewall; and

a second tactile feature integrally formed both on the plane and along the first edge of the first sidewall.

21. (New) The key cover of claim 21 wherein the first tactile feature is a geometric shape on the first sidewall.

22. (New) The key cover of claim 22 wherein the geometric shape is selected from the group consisting of: a circle, a triangle, a square, a parallelogram, a star, a cross, a house icon, an animal icon, a vehicle icon, and a human icon.

23. (New) The key cover of claim 21 wherein the second tactile feature is a raised treatment along the first edge.

24. (New) A key cover for covering a head of a key, where the head has an opening for receiving a key ring therethrough, said key cover comprising:

a first sidewall defining a plane and terminating in a first edge, the first sidewall having a first aperture therethrough;

a second sidewall terminating in a second edge, the second sidewall having a second aperture therethrough, the second sidewall being spaced apart from said first sidewall to define a recess that receives the head of the key therein so that the opening in the head is aligned with the first aperture and the second aperture; and

a tactile feature formed on the plane of the first sidewall, the tactile feature being selected from the group consisting of: paint, resin, enamel and an inlay.